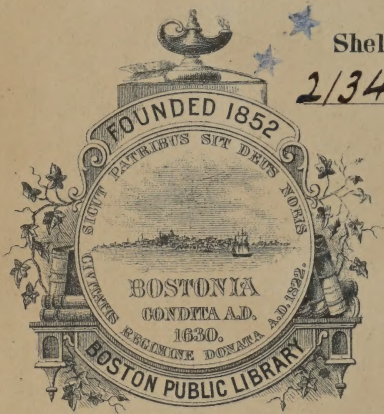
Shelf No.
2134.88



Hellotype Printing Co.

Wept on 2134.27

City Document.—No. 22.

CITY OF BOSTON.

* 2134.88

REPORT

ON THE BEQUESTS OF

GEORGE TICKNOR,

TO THE

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

B. H.
Dec. 2, 1893

CITY OF BOSTON.

IN COMMON COUNCIL, March 16, 1871.

THE Joint Standing Committee on the Public Library, to whom was referred the communication from His Honor the Mayor, transmitting to the City Council a letter from the executors of the will of George Ticknor, relating to the bequest of books, manuscripts, and money to the Public Library of the city of Boston, having considered the subject of said communication, would respectfully submit the following

REPORT.

By the ninth article of his will, Mr. Ticknor gives to the city of Boston, on the death of his wife, all his books and manuscripts in the Spanish and Portuguese languages, and also the sum of four thousand dollars. After the receipt of said sum the city is required to expend not less than one thousand dollars in every five years, during the twenty-five years next succeeding (*i. e.* the income of the four thousand dollars, at the rate of five per centum per annum), in the purchase of books in the Spanish and Portuguese languages and literatures. At the end of twenty-five years the income of the said sum is to be expended annually in the purchase of books of permanent value, either in the Spanish and Portuguese languages, or in such other languages as may be deemed expedient by those having charge of the library.

The books bequeathed or purchased are always to be freely accessible for reference or study, but are not to be loaned for use outside of the library building. If these bequests are not accepted by the city, and the trusts and conditions faithfully executed, the books, manuscripts, and money are to be given to the President and Fellows of Harvard College.

These are the substantial provisions of the will concerning the bequests of the city. A copy of the ninth article in full is appended hereto.

In order that the city may receive the immediate benefit of this unequalled contribution to the rare literature of the library, Mrs. Anna Ticknor, widow of the donor, has offered to relinquish her right to retain, during her life, the books and manuscripts, and is ready to place them under the control of the city at the present time.

This gift fitly crowns Mr. Ticknor's long-continued personal services and numerous benefactions towards the establishment of the Public Library on a lasting foundation. His earnest efforts in organizing the institution, and commending it to the favor of the leading bibliographers in this country and Europe, contributed largely to the unexampled success which has attended its development.

The books presented by his will consist of abou tfour thousand volumes in the Spanish and Portuguese languages. The collection was begun at Madrid in the year 1817, and was substantially completed between that time and the year 1838. Since then, only such books have been added as he was unable to secure previously. From the inability of book-collectors to supply his wants while making his original purchases, he resorted to the employment of priests, professors, and persons in private life to obtain rare works. For many years, Professor Gayangos acted as his agent in Spain; but his efforts to procure what he wanted were not confined to that country, — he purchased Spanish books in all the great book markets of the world. So assiduous was his pursuit that the complaint was made, several years ago, that he had raised the prices of Spanish books in all the principal marts. Of the value of the collection thus made, without reference to cost, it is perhaps enough to say, that no single library in Spain possesses all the books it contains. The only collections of equal value are the great Span-

ish Library in the British Museum, and the private collection of Lord Holland.

For the purpose of providing proper accommodations in the library for these books, and preparing and printing a catalogue, — similar to the catalogue of the Prince Library, — the trustees will require a small appropriation, estimated at three thousand dollars.

The committee would respectfully recommend the passage of the accompanying resolution and orders.

For the Committee,

AVERY PLUMER,

Chairman.

Resolved, That the thanks of the City Government be presented to Mrs. Anna Ticknor, for her generous offer to relinquish her right to retain, during her life, the very valuable collection of Spanish and Portuguese books and manuscripts bequeathed to the city of Boston by the late George Ticknor.

Ordered, That the bequests to the city of Boston, named in the ninth article of George Ticknor of Boston, proved February 20, 1871, be, and the same are hereby accepted, in accordance with the terms and conditions of said will; and the Trustees of the Public Library are authorized and directed to receive said bequests in behalf of the city, and make suitable arrangements for the care and custody of the books and manuscripts given in trust to the city by the said George Ticknor, and also to invest the money received in trust as aforesaid in bonds of the city, and expend the income in the manner designated in the trust.

Ordered, That the Committee on Finance be requested to report an order providing for a special appropriation of three thousand dollars to furnish accommodations in the Public Library for the books and manuscripts given in trust to the city by George Ticknor; and also for preparing and printing a catalogue of the same.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, CITY HALL,
BOSTON, March 6, 1871.

To the City Council:

GENTLEMEN, — I transmit herewith a letter addressed to me by William S. Dexter, Esq., one of the executors of the will of Mr. George Ticknor, late of Boston, deceased, enclosing a copy of the ninth article of the will of Mr. Ticknor, by which it appears that a munificent bequest was made to the city of Boston by that distinguished scholar and eminent citizen.

It appears by the accompanying letter of Mr. Dexter, that Mrs. Anna Ticknor generously offers to relinquish to the city her right to use the bequeathed property during her life.

I respectfully recommend the City Council to accept this generous bequest, and by some appropriate action to express their high appreciation of the value of the gift.

WM. GASTON, *Mayor.*

40 STATE STREET, March 6, 1871.

HON. WILLIAM GASTON, *Mayor of the City of Boston:*

SIR, — Enclosed herewith is a copy of the ninth article of the will of Mr. George Ticknor, late of Boston, relating to a bequest of books, manuscripts, and money to the city of Boston.

If the city shall accept the same in the manner required by the will, the executors thereof are ready to pay the money, and to deliver the books and manuscripts in said will mentioned, as Mrs. Anna Ticknor, widow of the said George, desires to relinquish her right to retain during her life the said books and manuscripts.

Your obedient servant,
WM. S. DEXTER,
For Self and Co-executors.

COPY OF ARTICLE IX. OF THE WILL OF GEORGE TICKNOR, OF BOSTON.

[PROVED FEBRUARY 20, 1871.]

NINTH. On the death of my wife, I give to the city of Boston, where I was born, where I have lived a long and happy life and where I hope to die, all my books and manuscripts in the Spanish and Portuguese languages; and I further give and bequeath to the same city of Boston, the sum of four thousand dollars to be paid within one year after the probate of this my will, the same to be always kept by the said city safely invested at interest for the purposes hereinafter specified. But I make these two bequests to the city of Boston only in trust for the following purposes, and no other, to wit: (1.) That, in the course of each and every period of five years during the twenty-five years next succeeding the receipt by the said city of the said sum of four thousand dollars, the said city shall expend not less than one thousand dollars in the purchase of books in the Spanish and Portuguese languages and literatures, or in one of them; and furthermore expressing it as my wish, but not as my requirement, in order, so far as may be to insure the purchase of books already determined to be worth possessing, that no books shall be so purchased during said twenty-five years, nor afterwards, from the income of the said fund of four thousand dollars, which shall not have been published in some one edition at least five years; it being my will that every book purchased at any time from the income of my said fund of four thousand dollars, shall be a book of permanent value and authority, and neither newspapers, periodicals, nor other popular publications not likely to be of lasting consideration.

(2.) That no person whatsoever, shall, at any time or under any circumstances, except for binding or needful repairs in binding, be permitted to remove from the proper rooms of the Public

Library, any of the books hereby bequeathed or for the purchase of which provision is hereby made; but that within such rooms, and at all such times and hours, and under such restrictions as the Trustees or other lawful managers of the the said library may deem expedient or reasonable, each and all of said books so bequeathed, or so purchased, shall be freely accessible for reference or study to all such persons as may be permitted to resort to said library, or to use it.

(3.) That at the end of the twenty five years aforesaid, and in each and every year thereafter forever, the said city of Boston shall cause the income of the said fund of four thousand dollars, but no part of the principal, to be expended in the purchase of books of permanent value, either in the Spanish and Portuguese languages, or in such other languages as may be deemed expedient by the Trustees of the said library, or other persons having lawful charge of the same, but always under the conditions and restrictions herein before expressed, namely: That the same shall be used only in the proper rooms of the said library, and never lent abroad or out of them.

(4.) That none of the books bequeathed by me as aforesaid, or to be purchased from the income of the fund of four thousand dollars as aforesaid, shall, at any time, be sold, exchanged or given away: but that they shall, if not inconvenient, be kept together, like the Bowditch and the Parker collections, now in the library.

(5.) That, if at any time, the fund aforesaid shall, from any cause whatever, become diminished, then at least one half of the annual income thereof shall yearly be added to the principal until the full sum of four thousand dollars shall be made good again.

(6.) But in case the city of Boston shall refuse or neglect for the space of one year after the probate of this my will to accept the said bequests of books, manuscripts, and money on the trusts and conditions herein before set forth, or

shall, at any time, after accepting the same, fail or neglect faithfully to fulfil each and all of said trusts and conditions, according to their true spirit and intent, then, and in either of said cases, I give and bequeath the same books, manuscripts, and money to the President and Fellows of Harvard College, in the city of Cambridge, for the use of the General Library of the said college, upon the same trusts and conditions, so far as the same can be made applicable to the said General Library, giving, as I do hereby give, to the said President and Fellows, full power to sue for and recover the said books, manuscripts, and money or any of them, from the said city of Boston, or from any person or persons who may have the same, or any of them, in his or their possession.